

[18 December, 2006]

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and control over, resources through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all the on-going sectoral programmes.

(b) The State Government submitted the Annual Action Plan for the last three-years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, listing the activities to be undertaken under the Swayamsidha scheme.

(c) the funds released to Government of Andhra Pradesh under the scheme during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	143.57	110.00

* No funds were released in 2003-04 as Annual Action Plan was not in order and fund utilization certificate was not submitted by the State Government.

Dowry prohibition law

2873. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether dowry prohibition law is in force;
- (b) the number of cases framed against violation;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the number of dowry deaths is on the rise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government to prevent dowry deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, 3204 cases were registered in the country in the year 2005 in respect of violations of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

(c) and (d) As per the data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of Dowry Deaths reported in the country in the last three years was 6208 (2003), 7026 (2004) and 6787 (2005).

(e) The action being taken by Government to combat crimes against women and to support women who are victims of such crimes is mentioned in the Statement.

Statement

Strategy for dealing with violence against women

On the one hand, the Government is strengthening the existing legislations through review and amendments, wherever required, and developing new institutional mechanisms (National and State Commissions for women, all-women police stations, etc.), on the other, it is running projects that provide support to vulnerable women (like short-stay homes, Hostels for Working Women etc.) and rehabilitation of victims of violence (through schemes like Swadhar). The National Commission for Women and several NGOs are also conducting sensitisation and orientation programmes for judicial and police officers on gender issues that also focus on violence against women.

Legislative measures-Legal rights of women

To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support service especially to working women.

Enforcement:

The direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of the crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:—

- * setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme
- * support services to victims of violence through schemes such

as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided

- * grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking
- * redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women
- * organizing Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps
- * implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban programme and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP)
- * review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women
- * sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues
- * Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/ guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include.

- * sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women;
- * vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry related violence

- * set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations and ensure wider recruitment of women Police Officers. ,
- * provide institutional support to the victims of violence
- * provide counseling to victims of rape
- * take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters
- * train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.
- * setting up of Fast Track Courts
- * setting up of Family Courts
- * appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Wives abandoned by husbands

2874. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are many cases in different States where husbands have abandoned wives and living abroad;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no comprehensive act to bring back the erring husbands to India; and

(c) if so, the proposal of Government to save the interests of the unfortunate girls and their children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has also been informed by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs that a draft information booklet for the guidance of women planning to get married to overseas Indians had been circulated to the State Governments concerned in October, 2005. Based on the suggestions received, a fuller version of the draft Booklet had been prepared and a